

March 8th, 2023
Education Committee

HB 6842: An Act Concerning the Establishment of a Local Food for Schools Incentive Program and Expansion of The CT Grown for CT Kids Grants Program

Dear Senator McCrory, Representative Currey, and Connecticut General Assembly members of the Education Committee.

My name is Heather Peracchio I am a parent of three school aged children, a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist, and a resident of Brookfield, Connecticut. Today, I am submitting support for HB 6842: An Act Concerning the Establishment of a Local Food for Schools Incentive Program and Expansion of The CT Grown for CT Kids Grants Program and to ask for your support in moving this bill forward.

By supporting this bill you will be helping School Nutrition Programs across Connecticut provide fresh, local products to our children along with supporting our local farmers and businesses. Local food systems have multiple economic benefits. Smaller producers keep more of the food dollar when selling to direct markets and they are more likely to purchase inputs locally thus stimulating the local economy.

I have a passion for local food and nutrition and I have seen the benefits when school aged children are exposed to farm fresh food. By exposing children to a great variety of produce it expands their palates, improves their nutritional health which may have lifelong impacts. I urge you to support funding this program. It is a win-win investment for our youth in Connecticut schools and for our local farms.

Thank you,

Heather Peracchio MS, RDN, CD-N
Resident of Brookfield, CT